

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SSM-05 AID-05 SAM-01 ACDA-10 EB-07 CU-04 TRSE-00 /109 W

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R 191506Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 597

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJ: NOVEMBER 19 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT THIRD PHASE

OF SECURITY PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED TOMORROW

1. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED FOURTH DAY OF CALM IN BEIURT AND INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT THIRD PHASE OF SECURITY PLAN NOVEMBER 20TH. PRESS BANNERED "DETERRENT FORCES SET OUT ON THEIR THIRD STEP IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH TOMORROW. WIDE-SCALE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ACCOMPANY CONCLUSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY PLAN IN LEBANON. SARKIS AND AL-HAJJ CONTINUES CONTACTS TO PROVIDE UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL FACTIONS. PRESIDENT SARKIS URGES PRESS TO ADHERE TO ITS OBLIGATIONS AND TO LEBANON'S INTEREST". PRESS ARTICLES ADDED THAT PEACE MARCH PREVIOUSDAY BETWEEN ZGHORTA AND BSHURRI REFLECTED

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RESTORED CLIMATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO TOWNS.

2. PRESS REPORTED MEA AND AIR FRANCE PLAN TO RESUME THEIR FLIGHTS BETWEEN BEIRUT AND PARIS NOVEMBER 19. IN ADDITION, GHASSAN TWEINI REACHED AGREEMENT WITH UNESCO OFFICIALS IN PARIS TO DISPATCH TEAM OF SPECIALISTS TO LEBANON TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

3. MEDIA NOTED KAMAL ASAAD WILL HOLD MEETING TODAY WITH NUMBER OF DEPUTIES TO EXAMINE REACTIVATION OF PARLIAMENT.

4. PRESS CITED COMMUNIQUE BY LEBANESE NASSERITE ORGANIZATION RELEASED ON SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT PRAISING SYRIAN POLICY IN LEBANON.

5. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST DENOUNCED ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF SOUTH LEBANESE VILLAGES WHILE AT SAME TIME, BAGHDAD REGIME MOBILISING ITS AGENTS IN STAB ARAB UNITY. COLUMNIST ACCUSED IRAQIS OF CARRYING OUT AMMAN INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL OPERATION AND OF ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT ADF MISSION. COLUMNIST CONCLUDED THAT POLICY OF "POLITICALLY BANKRUPT AND ISOLATED" IRAQI REGIME WILL FAIL IN FACE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. TISHREEN COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT THOSE WHO THOUGHT THE LEBANESE SEDITION MIGHT CAUSE SYRIA'S DOWNFALL WERE MISTAKEN. SYRIA IS STRONGER THAN SOME ENEMIES WISH TO THINK".

6. COMMENT: MEDIA AGAIN FAIL TO REPORT RECENT SAIQA-PDFLP CLASH IN BEIRUT CAMP, PRESUMABLY TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF MOMENTUM TOWARDS PRESS GENERATED BY ADF DEPLOYMENT. PUBLICITY ACCORDED TO TWEINI'S NEGOTIATION WITH UNESCO REFLECTS SYRIA'S DESIRE TO TURN CORNER ON SECURITY ISSUE AND FOCUS ON RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS. SARKIS'S DISCUSSION WITH MEDIA OFFICIALS SEEMS INTENDED TO ASSERT GOL CLAIM THAT FREEDOM OF PRESS MUST BE BALANCED BY "NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS" DURING COMING DELICATE PHASE OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. POLICY WHICH SARG WILL CERTAINLY SUPPORT.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC07995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760432-0537
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761131/aaaabaki.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER 19 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT THIRD PHASE OF SECURITY PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED TOMORROW
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006